

WASHINGTON – U.S. Rep. Mark Kirk announced today that more funds will be available for cleanup efforts in Waukegan Harbor as a result of a funding amendment to the 2008 Department of the Interior Environment Appropriations Bill. The Kirk Amendment, which unanimously passed the House Appropriations Committee today, will boost federal funding for the Great Lakes Legacy Act from \$35 million to \$37 million. This represents an increase of \$2 million from funding in 2007.

"The cleanup of Waukegan harbor will remove threats to human health, protect our environment and help rebuild the economy of Northern Illinois" Congressman Kirk said. "I am happy that Congress is increasing funding for this critical Great Lakes environmental restoration program."

The Great Lakes Legacy Act was signed into law in 2002 to help cleanup contaminated sediments in federally designated Areas of Concern throughout the Great Lakes. Since the implementation of the Act, eight projects have been approved for funds and four sites have been restored.

In the 1970s and 80s, Outboard Marine Corporation dumped Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) straight into Waukegan Harbor. In 1992, the USEPA supervised a program that eliminated 90 percent of this contamination. The final cleanup will remove the rest, opening the way for Waukegan to become one of the first harbors on the Great Lakes to be environmentally restored. Once the final cleanup plan is approved, the harbor will be eligible for approximately \$23 million in federal matching funds.

The full House is expected to consider the appropriations bill next week.